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Construction begins on last segment of Loop 101 HOV lanes *Final segment will connect 38 miles of Loop 101 carpool lanes*

PHOENIX – Construction on the final segment of HOV lanes on Loop 101 (Pima Freeway) from Tatum Boulevard to Princess Drive begins this weekend, a segment that will connect 38 miles of continuous carpool lanes when complete next year.

The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) wants motorists to plan ahead so they are not caught in the construction. The eastbound section of the freeway will be closed in order to complete work necessary to kick off this important project.

Crews will install concrete barrier in the median of the freeway to establish a safe work zone. They will also re-stripe the traffic lanes in order to keep the same number of lanes available to drivers throughout the project.

Closures include:

Eastbound Loop 101 closed between Tatum Boulevard and Hayden Road from 11 p.m. Friday (Aug. 22) to 5 a.m. Monday (Aug. 25).

- Drivers are strongly encouraged to use southbound State Route 51 to Cactus Road or another freeway alternative to avoid extreme congestion expected on eastbound Loop 101 at Tatum Boulevard and other local streets.
- For local and business access, eastbound traffic will exit at Tatum Boulevard and can access local streets from Mayo Boulevard and other major streets.

Westbound Loop 101 closed between Hayden Road and Tatum Boulevard from 1 a.m. Saturday (Sept. 6) to 5 a.m. Monday (Sept. 8).

- Detour will be from Hayden Road north to Pinnacle Peak Road, west to Tatum Boulevard and south to Loop 101.

The \$13.9 million project will complete an HOV lane system from State Route 51 (Piestewa Freeway) to Loop 202 (Santan Freeway). The three other segments of HOV lane projects on Loop 101 are currently under construction. This newest project from Tatum Boulevard to Princess Drive is scheduled to be complete by summer 2009 and will add one HOV lane in each direction, a new permanent concrete median barrier, median lighting and rubberized asphalt.

This project is part of the Regional Transportation Plan approved by Maricopa County voters in 2004. Under the plan, a variety of transportation improvements in the Phoenix area, including new and expanded freeways, transit facilities and local street upgrades, are being constructed through 2025. More information on the Regional Transportation Plan is available at www.azdot.gov/ValleyFreeways.

For general information about East Valley projects, contact the project hotline at 602-283-9800 or at eastvalleyprojects@cox.net. For traffic updates across Arizona, call 5-1-1 or visit ADOT's Travel Information Site at www.az511.gov.

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